

THE AMERICAN PAINTED LADY: *CYNTHIA VIRGINIENSIS* DRURY, A VERY RARE MIGRANT. — On September 28 my wife and I visited Gower Peninsular in South Wales. For once in this wet autumn it was a warm sunny day and a few belated butterflies were still about. We had lunch at Penrice Castle and afterwards were taken on a tour of the very extensive grounds by our host. In a warm corner a few valerian flowers were still out, and were being patronised by what I took to be a rather undersized *C. cardui* which flew restlessly about, occasionally settling on the ground between visits to the flowers. From the start I felt there was something unusual about the butterfly, so when eventually it settled on a flower head and basked in the sun with expanded wings I was able to examine it in detail at very close quarters. It was then that I noticed that the ground colour on the upper side lacked the rosy flush of *cardui*, having more of an orange tint. The hind wings were devoid of black markings but had a row of submarginal eye spots. One of these near the apex of the wing was particularly large and with a prominent white ocellus. I never saw the underside.

Even then the penny didn't drop and I thought I was looking at a rather unusual variety of *cardui*. I had no net or other means of capture, and it was not till we got home, when I was able to refer to an illustration in Humphreys and Westwood and another in Higgins and Riley, that I realised I had been looking without any doubt, at a fine specimen of that very rare migrant, *Cynthia virginensis*, the American Painted Lady.

The butterfly is not figured in the great majority of our national entomological literature. I think this omission is a pity, as it could so easily be overlooked as nearly happened in my own case. — Major Gen. C. G. LIPSCOMB, The Riding, Knook, Nr. Warminster, Wiltshire, 2.x.1981.

*EMPRIA LONGICORNIS* (THOMSON) (HYM: SYMPHYTA) NEAR EDINBURGH. — While collecting with Mr. A. D. Leslie on the edges of Redmoss Nature Reserve, Balerno, nr. Edinburgh, Midlothian (NT1663) on 22.5.1981 we each swept a male of *Empria longicornis* Thomson. The foodplant of *longicornis* is said to be *Rubus*, so the specimens probably originated from a small patch of *R. idaeus* on the roadside verge near the place of capture.

R. B. Benson (1952, *Handbks. Ident. Brit. Insects*, 6(2b): 90) recorded *longicornis* as rare in Britain, occurring in Cornwall, Devon, Herts., Glamorgan, Lanarks. and very locally in Ireland. The European literature suggests that it is local and scarce throughout its range, but perhaps more widespread in northern and mountainous regions. — A. D. LISTON, 99 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UU.

*COLEOPHORA ALBITARSELLA* ZELLER ON *PRUNELLA VULGARIS*. — I found a case of this species on selfheal in Grays Chalk Pit on the 25th September, 1981. This species feeds on a number of other Labiatae but as far as I am aware it has not hitherto been recorded on this foodplant. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF. 26.ix.1981.